

Morris County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

Fact Sheet

The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP). The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.

County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population:** 470,212
- **Median Age:** 37.8
- **Racial Composition:**
 - 87% White
 - 3% Black
 - 6% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - 8% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$77,340
- **% of residents ≥ 25 without high school diploma:** 10%
- **% of families living below the poverty level:** 3.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Note: Hispanics may be of any race.

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 629.1 men and 463.6 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Morris County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 236.5 for men, and 175.5 for women in Morris County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Morris County are prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** Patient non-compliance, transportation, insurance coverage, fragmentation of services and lack of continuity of care have been identified as potential barriers to healthcare.
- **School Health Education:** Schools are required to include instruction on cancer awareness as part of their core health curriculum, but it is not known how many schools provide cancer-related instruction.
- **Providers and Treatment:** There are four hospitals providing cancer care services to Morris County residents.
- **Advocacy:** The American Cancer Society conducts an advocacy program that is directed to the U.S. Congress and the New Jersey State Legislature.
- **Palliative Care:** All three major hospitals in Morris County have a formalized, internal palliative care program for their patients.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Although there do not appear to be widespread, cancer-specific nutrition programs throughout Morris County, some existing programs and policies could be adapted for use to advance healthy practices.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Childhood cancer care is available in Morris County through Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Morris County & New Jersey

1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Morris County	NJ	Morris County	NJ
Male	629.1	628.7	236.5	261.1
Female	463.6	453.7	175.5	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	152.0	138.5	31.1	31.3
Cervical, female	8.2	10.9	1.8	3.1
Colorectal, male	75.6	79.0	26.8	29.5
Colorectal, female	52.8	54.4	19.9	20.1
Lung, male	78.1	92.5	63.1	74.8
Lung, female	55.7	55.4	41.7	41.6
Melanoma, male	27.8	20.1	4.8	4.4
Melanoma, female	15.7	11.9	1.8	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	15.5	15.7	4.1	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.7	6.4	1.8	1.6
Prostate, male	207.0	194.3	29.7	32.9

Sources: ¹ New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

² National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.
A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in **bold italics**.

County Recommendations

- Create an organizational infrastructure that can generate a Morris County Cancer Control Plan.
- Coordinate the activities of the Morris County Cancer Coalition and the Morris Regional Public Health Partnership with those of the Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey.
- Initiate a program of cancer services advocacy in Morris County.
- Provide support for and participate in Community Health Improvement Programs of Health Professional Education.
- Create a Morris County Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention
P.O. Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369
(609) 588-5038

To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/ccp>